

Message

From: ZIFF, SARA [ZIFF.SARA@EPA.GOV]
Sent: 2/2/2017 6:44:51 PM
To: Armann, Steve [Armann.Steve@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: Response to Alvord USD BOE questions re Ag Park
Attachments: Ag Park Progress Report Sep 19 2016.pdf

From: Tasnif-abbasi, Maryam@DTSC [mailto:Maryam.Tasnif-abbasi@dtsc.ca.gov]
Sent: Thursday, February 02, 2017 10:00 AM
To: Wilson, Patrick <Wilson.Patrick@epa.gov>; ZIFF, SARA <ZIFF.SARA@EPA.GOV>
Subject: FW: Response to Alvord USD BOE questions re Ag Park

FYI

Thanks!

Maryam

From: Tasnif-abbasi, Maryam@DTSC
Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2017 4:02 PM
To: 'Kevin Emenaker' <kevin.emenaker@alvord.k12.ca.us>
Cc: Garcia, Peter@DTSC <Peter.Garcia@dtsc.ca.gov>; Jeng, Cy@DTSC <Cy.Jeng@dtsc.ca.gov>; Neal, Greg@DTSC <Greg.Neal@dtsc.ca.gov>; 'traviett.ford@alvordschools.org' <traviett.ford@alvordschools.org>
Subject: Response to Alvord USD BOE questions re Ag Park

Dear Mr. Emenaker:

Thank you for taking the time to write to us about your concerns and the concerns of the School Board. Below, please find answers to your questions. I have also attached a progress report from September 2016 which summarizes pertinent information about the Ag Park. DTSC would like to emphasize that at this time there is no evidence to suggest that the local schools have been impacted by Ag Park activities. We would be more than happy to schedule a briefing with you and bring you up to speed with the current and historic activities; we have been working with your office and are close to finalizing February 1st at 2:00 as a time to meet with you and your Board. We are pleased to inform you that the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) would be happy to meet with you should you have broader health questions.

Here are the responses you requested:

Q1 *The Board of Education has been made aware of the toxic spill at 7020 Crest Ave known as "AG Park". Norte Vista High School and Terrace Elementary are located within under a mile of that toxic spill site. After years we know now due to the EPA's recent testing that there are elevated levels of cancer-causing PCBs on that site. Levels at 131 mg/kg - nearly 600 times higher than the health standard set for PCBs were found throughout that site. Residents and two of our districts schools were at risk to being exposed to these toxic chemicals for thirteen years. Is the above information factual & correct?*

The Ag Park, at 7020 Crest Avenue, is an approximately 60-acre property located within the Arlanza neighborhood in the City of Riverside. Soil contamination at the Ag Park resulted from the operation of a former sewage treatment plant built on the site. The U.S. Army operated the plant beginning in 1942 as part of the 1,247-acre Camp Anza, which include much of the Arlanza neighborhood. After Camp Anza closed in 1946, the sewage treatment plant was run by a private utility company from 1947 to 1963, and then by the City of Riverside until 1965.

While the sewage treatment plant was in operation, it was standard practice to remove sludge from the plant and dry the sludge on the land within Ag Park. The sewage treatment plant accepted waste from homes as well as industrial operations. As such, the sludge contained industrial chemicals, including PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls). In 2003, the above-ground concrete structures associated with the former sewage treatment plant were demolished, and there was a spill of sludge. This spill area was cleaned up under the direction of the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB); however, discovery of PCBs beyond the footprint of the spill led to the City's request for DTSC oversight in 2005. It is possible that the PCBs outside the spill area are a result of historical sludge drying operations. DTSC provided oversight of investigation and cleanup activities and in April 2014 determined that no further action was needed. The developer, who had planned to build new homes at the Ag Park, then began the process to prepare the property for construction.

In 2015, some community members requested confirmation of the April 2014 Ag Park decision. With assistance from the USEPA, confirmatory soil sampling was conducted in September 2015 and in November 2015. DTSC evaluated risk to human health based on the results of the November 2015 samples and determined that PCB levels at the Ag Park do not pose a significant health risk to the surrounding community. However, continued cleanup is needed in certain areas of the Ag Park site before construction of new residential homes can begin. This cleanup, specifically to support the construction of future homes, is currently underway.

In 2004, 16 soil samples were collected from four residences adjacent (south) to the Ag Park; 11 of them had no detectable levels of PCBs and the concentrations detected in the other 5 samples were all below DTSC's residential screening level of 0.22 mg/kg. At the request of the community, an evaluation of the neighborhood is being conducted with collaboration from the California Air Resources Board and input from USEPA and CDPH.

At this time, there is no evidence to suggest that local schools have been impacted by Ag Park activities, and it appears that the information provided to the Board of Education mischaracterizes the facts.

Q2 Is there a reason for us to have our soils tested for these two sites?

Regarding potential of impact from the Ag Park activities, there is no evidence to indicate that the local schools might have been impacted by the Ag Park activities.

Q3 Would you be able to present to the Board at the December 8th meeting?

We have been touch with Traviett in your office, and are tentatively looking at February 1st at 2:00 to meet with the Board and answer questions.

Q4 Also, if you can include me in any correspondence going out to the public, that would be appreciated.

Please click [here](#) to sign up for our EList, and we will include you on future public correspondence. Also, please refer to the [DTSC Ag Park website](#) for more information.

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